

# What is the point of being sustainable?

Words & Pictures  
By BEA SWANSSON

FOSSIL FUELS accounted for 92 per cent of Australia's energy usage in 2021.

Production and consumption of these fossil fuels release greenhouse gases which are a driver of climate change.

They are toxic and increase air pollution.

Reducing energy usage or changing to a renewable energy source, such as solar power, lessens the amount of greenhouse gases that are released into the atmosphere.

Australians also throw out around 76 million tonnes of waste every year — a number that is steadily increasing.

Less than half of the waste Australia produces gets recycled.

A large proportion of the waste that ends up in landfill is toxic, and over the years, this can cause serious environmental hazards.

Additionally, the more we throw out, the more that gets produced, so there is an increase in excess greenhouse gases and air pollution.

These are incredibly damaging to our environment and contribute to climate change, in addition to the already devastating damage caused by the rubbish that ends up in the ocean, parks, and other animal habitats.

## How you can create change

If communities begin reducing waste and energy usage, it begins making a difference to Australia's contribution to climate change.

The following are just some of the Warrandyte initiatives that can support you to live more sustainably.

### Riverflow Recycle and Upcycle

Held on Saturday, May 20, at Warrandyte Uniting Church, this recycle/upcycle event invites you to bring any items to be recycled and reused, including electronic devices, clothes, craft items, blankets, and more.

This is impactful because it stops unnecessary items going to landfill and decreases unnecessary spending.  
[riverflow.com.au/recycling](http://riverflow.com.au/recycling)

### Warrandyte Rotary Recycle Op Shop

Buying second-hand items is very sustainable.

It saves money, energy, resources, and reduces waste and toxic emissions caused by factories.

Rotary has a store on Yarra Street.

By supporting Rotary, you are also contributing to its environmental action group.

The Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) encourages members of Rotary to contribute to sustaining our environment and stabilising the climate.

ESRAG has varied programs, resources, and events to promote, educate, and implement sustainable living into people's lives.

They include sustainable packing, green jobs, clean cooking, plant-rich diets, and renewable energy.

[esrag.org/project/warrandyte-rotary-recycle-op-shop](http://esrag.org/project/warrandyte-rotary-recycle-op-shop)

### Green business

A number of local businesses are also providing ways to reduce waste by buying second hand.

Whimsical Treasures upcycles furniture and homewares to give them a new lease on life, while Gently Held Vintage Boutique gives quality clothing a second chance at being fabulous.

You can also give a new home to a pre-loved book the Yarra Cottage second hand book store.

Warrandyte Lions Club run an Op Shop, which raises money for community projects.

### Warrandyte Repair Café

The Warrandyte Mechanics' Institute and Arts Association (WMI&AA) runs the Warrandyte Repair Café at the Mechanics' Hall on the first Sunday of the month.

The Café focuses on upcycling and repairing broken items, thereby minimising the amount of waste going to landfill.

They encourage people to bring broken or damaged items such as toasters, lamps, crockery, bikes, toys,

hairdryers, and clothes — anything broken but not beyond repair.

The "fixers" of the Warrandyte Repair Café are volunteers, so bringing broken items to the café not only reduces waste but also saves you money.

[warrandytehallarts.asn.au/repaircafe](http://warrandytehallarts.asn.au/repaircafe)

### Warrandyte Neighbourhood House

If you have a WNH Membership, you can borrow from the Library of Things.

It provides free access to these helpful items for hire:

- Party hire equipment
- Garden equipment
- Camping gear
- A marquee
- A jumping castle and other fun games
- Home/kitchen equipment
- Tools

The program helps reduce waste and saves you from making unnecessary, one-off purchases.

This is a community-run program that saves money while decreasing what goes into landfill and minimises clutter around your house

[warrandyteneighbourhoodhouse.org.au/library-of-things](http://warrandyteneighbourhoodhouse.org.au/library-of-things)

### Warrandyte Library

The Whitehorse Manningham Libraries offer a range of ways you can become more environmentally sustainable.

- E-waste recycling bin
- Seed library
- Energy Efficiency Toolkit

The Energy Efficiency Toolkit includes an energy-saving thermometer, a mini non-contact thermometer, a water flow measuring cup, and a PowerMate light energy meter.

These products are available to borrow from the library and assist you in identifying areas in your home or office where you can save energy.

This kit not only helps you save money on energy bills but also benefits the environment.

Many people do not realise when they are wasting their energy, for



example, leaving lights on all day, or having the heater on all night.

The energy-efficient toolkit enlightens you about the problem areas, allowing you to make meaningful changes.

The more households that do this, the fewer greenhouse gases that are released.

The seed library provides the opportunity to begin or continue growing your own food.

You take seeds from the library and return seeds from your garden once plants have grown.

Growing food in your garden has many benefits for yourself and the environment.

Personal benefits include saving money, increasing knowledge, and consuming healthier, more organic food.

Growing food at home means it is free of chemicals, including pesticides and fertilisers.

You can learn or improve skills, spend more time outside, and save money buying vegetables.

Growing your food reduces the amount of food waste you are contributing to landfill.

Food waste generates a specific greenhouse gas, methane, which

is particularly detrimental to the environment.

It increases global temperatures, and decreasing it is vital to slowing climate change.

[www.wml.vic.gov.au/About/Our-sustainable-initiatives](http://www.wml.vic.gov.au/About/Our-sustainable-initiatives)

### Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO)

Currently, 56 per cent of waste in the average Australian's red-lid bin is food waste.

FOGO is a service aiming to reduce this number, arriving in Manningham in July 2023.

It is a cheap, straightforward way of decreasing the amount of food waste produced in Victoria.

By placing food waste in your existing green bin, it can then be recycled into compost.

Kitchen caddies are being delivered to Warrandyte during May.

[www.manningham.vic.gov.au/waste-and-recycling/bins-and-collections/food-organics-garden-organics-fogo](http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/waste-and-recycling/bins-and-collections/food-organics-garden-organics-fogo)

### Clean Energy Nillumbik

Clean Energy Nillumbik hosts information days and bulk purchases of renewable energy appliances, such as heat pumps and solar panels.

Join up to get tips and discounts on how to make your home more sustainable.  
[www.cleanenergynillumbik.org.au](http://www.cleanenergynillumbik.org.au)

### Every little bit helps

It is so important to learn and understand how you can make personal changes that impact the environment to reduce energy wastage in your home further.

All these programs are creating change in Warrandyte and are helping the community as well as benefitting the environment.

By exploring these options, you are contributing to positive climate action in your community.

**Bea Swansson is a student at Box Hill High School.**

**Bea researched and composed this article as part of her term of work experience at Warrandyte Diary.**

## Warrandyte Toy Library Open Day and new location

By CLARE HARDING

### WARRANDYTE TOY LIBRARY

THE WARRANDYTE Community Hall is the new home to the Warrandyte Toy Library.

The Toy Library has been serving the Warrandyte community for nearly 40 years and aims to provide a range of interesting, good-quality toys, puzzles, and games for children aged six months to six years.

Children are encouraged to try out the toys before they take them home, and the borrowing sessions allow them to play, interact, and share with

other children.

Membership options allow families to select how many toys they wish to borrow and can be a fantastic way to try a toy or game before making a costly purchase.

Becoming a Toy Library member can also be a great way to reduce your environmental impact, with the knowledge that local children will treasure the toys, which will be well-used for many years.

The library's new West End location at 2-8 Taroona Avenue (right next to the oval, playground, and kinder) makes visiting the Toy Library easy

and provides the chance for families to build connections with other members of the community.

There are also opportunities to join the committee and contribute to the future of this important community service (membership fees are waived for committee members).

A recent Manningham Council Community Grant has allowed the Warrandyte Toy Library to purchase some new toys to improve young children's gross motor skills.

The very popular Children's Party Pack has also been updated and is free to borrow as part of the annual

membership.

To showcase these great toys and the new location, the Warrandyte Toy Library will host an open day on Saturday, June 3, 10am-11:30am.

This will be a fabulous opportunity to see the new home of the Toy Library, meet other families and get your little ones moving.

The Warrandyte Toy Library is open for borrowing every Saturday, 10am-11:30am, during school term (except long weekends).

Check out our website for the most up-to-date calendar:

[www.warrandytetoylibrary.org.au](http://www.warrandytetoylibrary.org.au)



Upcoming Market Dates  
for your diary:

- Saturday June 3
- Saturday July 1

Market Hours are from 8am to 1pm

Contact details : [stalls@warrandyteriversidemarket.com.au](mailto:stalls@warrandyteriversidemarket.com.au)

[www.warrandyteriversidemarket.com.au](http://www.warrandyteriversidemarket.com.au) <https://facebook.com/warrandyteriversidemarket>